

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-34 are currently pending, wherein claims 1-8 and 15 have been amended and new claims 31-34 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bui for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview held Tuesday, November 30, 2004. During the interview, it was agreed that claims 1-8 should be amended, as indicated above, to further clarify the Examiner's interpretation of the phrase "each channel". Please note that claim 15 was also amended to correct a typographical error. In addition, it was agreed that the claims in the present application are patentably distinguishable over the Lownes reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,539). We do understand, however, that the Examiner must perform a further search.

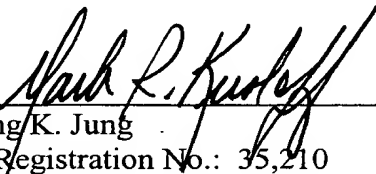
In addition, new claims 31-34 are patentably distinguishable over the Lownes reference for reasons similar to those relating to the currently pending claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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